

ny parts of Europe, and particularly i

The most erroneous ideas prevail in relation to the military strength of this country. An opinion is prevalent that our standing army being so small, for the first time in the history of a war with any power, we should suffer defeat after defeat; and that consequently it would be madness for us to engage in a war, at least with any strong European power.

The events of the last two months have shown conclusively that this opinion is, in fact, founded in ignorance of our real strength and resources, and that the respect of war on our horizon is sufficient to call forth into full play all the energies of the American people.

This erroneous impression arises from the fact that our standing army does not amount to over 100,000 men. The people of Europe are not aware that this force forms but the nucleus of an army of citizen soldiers, that can be numbered by the million; and how much severer will they regard the effect of such a force than that of a standing army of 1,000,000 men.

It is, therefore, to be considered as a very great and altogether unfortunate, as indicating what a force the United States can bring into the field on so short a notice.

When the requisition for troops was first made upon the Governor of Louisiana, it was imagined that it could be necessary to resort to a draft to procure the requisite number. At that time the people of Louis-

did not believe in the existence of war with the Mexicans. They had such a comprehensive opinion of their army, that they were confident of its ability to do any thing that the handsful of men in the Government could require. The ample means of occupation of the Rio Grande, as they had no expectation that the Mexicans would attempt offensive measures. But no sooner was it known that it was to be a sham war, and that they would have an opportunity of meeting the enemy, than thousands volunteered their services, not only in Louisiana, but all over the country. The number required by the President from the several States is, fifty thousand, and more than double that number, according to the best calculation, had volunteered to be accepted.

In Louisiana nearly a thousand mounted gun-men, who had volunteered, have been disbanded, as there is no need of their services. The State has already sent six regiments to the seat of war, and of those, two were mustered in two weeks.

In Alabama several companies more were necessary to volunteer their services, and the order to remain at home caused a great deal of disappointment among them. The State will probably have sent between two and three thousand to the seat of war.

In Indiana the most volunteer companies have been raised than can be mustered into service. It will probably send two thousand men to the field.

In Tennessee double as many men have volunteered as were required to fill up the quota demanded of the State. In one division of the State, thirteen companies tendered their services when only three were wanted, and the choice had to be made by ballot; those who were so fortunate as to be chosen receiving the announcement with shouts of joy.

In Kentucky the two regiments required by the Government were filled up on the 29th of May, and

In Missouri the complement called for was in progress of formation, the only difficulty being to choose from the numbers offering themselves. One thousand mounted men were required for a descent on Santa Fe, and by the last accounts there was more than half that number mustered.

This is the spirit that prevails over the entire Western country. Several Members of Congress have left their seats of government and started for the West, to enrol men and proceed to Mexico. Ohio, the greatest abolition State in the Union, was the first to fill up the complement called for by the President.

and the same spirit prevails among the New England States, that were most violently opposed to the annexation of Texas. New York and the Atlantic States are pouring out thousands and tens of thousands, and there are many companies that will not be restrained from going to the scene of action, whether their services are accepted by government or not.

These volunteers are fitted to make excellent soldiers. They are well drilled and disciplined, and they have, withal, a national and State pride, that will make them as efficient troops as any in the world.

When men in flourishing business, upon the first indication that their services are needed by their country, sell out their stock, equip themselves for a campaign, and enlist as volunteers, as has happened many instances, they must be actuated by a more motive stronger than the desire to appear in regiments. Such men, fighting for their country, are worth hundreds of mercenary troops.

The citizens' foreign birth have not been at all inferior in ardor and patriotism to the natives of the soil. In Ohio there is an entire regiment of Germans, numbering about 900 men, and in every State in the Union, the Irish and German companies are among the first to offer their services. There is no doubt as to the efficiency of these foreign companies. Their national pride, as well as their devotion to their adopted country, will make them signalize themselves in the field, and indeed they have already done so.

From present appearances, if the muster were to continue, we could, in six months, bring into the field an available force of 750,000 men, and of such troops, as for valor, discipline, and endurance, will compare with any in the world. This is an army greater than ever Eastern monarchs brought into the field, and one

that could withstand the combined armies of all Europe. This force could be increased from time to time to any extent. Such an army actuated by feelings of patriotism, and the desire of glory, and withal brave and intelligent, would be such a sight as the world has never seen.

But we trust the day that would call together such a force is far distant. The best policy of every country is peace, and we hope that the harmonious relations that now exist between this country and all the nations of Europe will long remain undisturbed. Indeed, there is every indication at present of a lasting peace; but we deem it, nevertheless, well to show what the United States are capable of, should any occasion arise to call forth the latent energies of the nation. Our present brush with Mexico is a slight indication of what those energies are when called into play.

A MEXICAN SOLDIER'S BURIAL.—A correspondent of the *Picayune* thus sketches a funeral he witnessed at Matamoros:

"The Mexicans gave us a sample yesterday of the manner in which they bury their dead soldiers. It must, in justice to them, however, be remembered, that this occurred in a captured city, where they are not allowed to use their arms. The dead man was brought out of a hospital, in a long wooden box, covered with coarse black muslin. Four men acted as bearers, each smoking a cigarette. They were preceded some ten yards by a band consisting of a horn, clarinet, flute and fife. Close behind the corpse followed a little boy with a brand of fire, and his pockets crammed full of 'Indian crackers.' These he pulled out one after another, and tossed these off

his chumk of fire. Next followed a crowd of women, smoking cigars. The bearers stopped several times, changed their burden to a fresh shoulder, and relighted their cigars."

RUMORED DUEL.—A rumor was in circulation in this city yesterday, says the Cincinnati Commercial of the 21st inst, that Capt. Miller shot Asgt. Harrison in a duel at Camp Jackson, below New Orleans on the Highland; the wound said to be not mortal. Both are from this place, and what gives color to the rumor is—the fact that they had a quarrel at the embarkation of the volunteers here, when one drew his sword and the matter ended. Harrison is a relation of the late General Harrison, and Miller is a captain of one of the city German companies.

A DELEGATE AT SCOT.—An officer of the navy who has lately visited Callao, writes of it in the following odorous terms: "I have seen quite enough of the laziness and filth of Callao. It is not surprising that the buzzards swarm here; the only wonder is they do not carry off the inhabitants. But they are probably prevented by the fleas; who have already got possession. What an awful gulp the earthquake had of it, which swallowed up old Callao! I have been afraid to should see it thrown up again, in some great sickening spasm. Should this occur, the man in the moon will hold his nose."—*Norfolk Herald.*